

AL LAWSON
5TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS

RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0905

1337 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-0123
(202) 225-2256 — FAX

1010 DAVIS STREET #206
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32209
(904) 354-1652
(904) 379-0309 — FAX

435 NORTH MACOMB STREET
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301
(850) 558-9450
(850) 577-0633 — FAX

<http://www.lawson.house.gov>

July 12, 2018

550

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
4555 Twelfth Street SW
Washington DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

Given the Internet's fundamental role in American society, recent efforts to expand highspeed broadband are important and should be supported. However, these efforts should not come at the expense of prior contractual obligations, customer satisfaction, or public safety.

In light of the Commission's consideration of One Touch Make Ready (OTMR) proposals, the Commission should ensure that any OTMR proposal it considers does not interfere with the contracts of line workers and that the collective bargaining agreements of these employees continue to be honored. The line workers already under contract have the expertise necessary to ensure that this potentially dangerous job is done safely and correctly. I also request that the Commission ensure any OTMR proposal considered will provide continuous service for customers and the safety of workers and the public.

It is difficult to overstate the importance of a fast, free, and open Internet. Americans everywhere depend on it for their work, their education, and in their day to day activities. We cannot entrust critical infrastructure improvements to anyone other than the most qualified professionals, particularly when American jobs and American lives are at stake. I look forward to working with the FCC to make sure communities across North Florida have fair and adequate access to the Internet.

Sincerely,



Al Lawson
United States Congressman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

August 10, 2018

The Honorable Al Lawson
U.S. House of Representatives
1337 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lawson:

Thank you for your letter on pole attachments and "one-touch make-ready" (OTMR) proposals. My highest priority is making sure every American who wants high-speed Internet access can get it. But the plain reality is that if you live in rural America, you are much less likely to have high-speed Internet access than if you live in a city. If you live in a low-income neighborhood, you are less likely to have high-speed Internet access than if you live in a wealthier area. To change that, we need massive investment to construct, expand, and improve wired and wireless networks. And to spur that investment, the FCC needs to remove outdated and unnecessary barriers.

At our August 2 meeting, the FCC did just that by adopting an OTMR regime for the vast majority of attachments governed by federal law. Recommended by the Commission's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee, OTMR promises to substantially lower the cost and shorten the time to deploy broadband on utility poles. It allows a new provider who wants to attach to a pole to move all the wires and equipment in just one "touch." It's a bit like having to go to the grocery, the dry cleaner, and the bank. The slow way to do this would be to visit each business but return home each time. The rational thing we all do is to do each errand, one after the other, all on one trip. That's essentially what OTMR is.

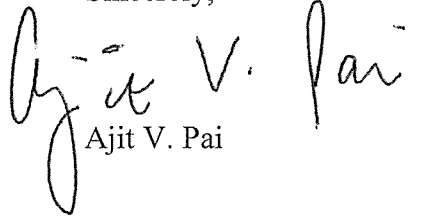
By making it quicker and cheaper to attach to poles, we can accelerate network buildout and make it easier for new entrants to provide more broadband competition. We included safeguards to protect the public and worker safety and excluded from OTMR new attachments that are more complicated or above the "communications space" of a pole, where safety and reliability risks are greater. We also respected existing collective bargaining agreements, allowing union labor to be present for survey and make-ready work and to conduct post-make-ready inspections through such contracts with existing attachers. Based on the record, we expect the OTMR regime to speed broadband deployment without substantial service interruptions or danger to the public or workers. As Google Fiber has put it, our efforts will "remove obstacles that reduce choice and competition for broadband consumers."

In short, this Commission is heading forward, not backward. We're favoring competition, not the status quo. We're pressing for gigabit fiber, not fading copper. We're embracing the promise of new entrants that want nothing more than a chance to compete, not the fears of incumbents who always find a way to say no. It's unfortunate that this decision wasn't

unanimous, but nonetheless we are optimistic about the positive impact our decision will have on millions of Americans who want better, faster, and cheaper Internet access.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "A".

Ajit V. Pai